THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) M/s. Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd. (BOGL) have represented to the Government about availability of sub-standard imported Flint Butons in the market. No complaint has however been received from user Industry or any Government Agency engaged in public healthcare in this regard. BOGL who are the only manufacturers of Flint Buttons in the country use batch type pot technology for its manufacture which is considered to be obsolete in most of the advanced countries.

(b) Import of Flint Buttons is allowed without any restriction as the domestic pdoduction is not sufficient to meet the entire demand in the country.

(c) Some samples of imported Russian Flint Buttons collected by BOGL and got tested at the Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute did no reportedly conform to the Indian Standard specifications.

Increase in cost of domestic Flint Buttons

707. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the domestic Flint Buttons have become costlier against the imported Flint Buttons;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to protect the domestic industry; and

(c) what is the market price of imported Flint Buttons as against domestic Flint Buttons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd., the only indigenous manufacturers of Flint Buttons, have reported that the domestic Flint Buttons are costlier compared to some of the imported Flint Buttons.

(b) Putting of Flint Buttons on the restricted list of import is one of the measures suggested for protection of the domestic industry.

(c) The price of imported Flint Buttons reportedly ranges between Rs. 296-560 per kg. approx. depending upon the country of import as against Rs. 531-656 per kg. approx. of indigenously manufactured Flint Buttons.

Restoration of BOGL's Flint Button Market

708. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Opthalmic Glass Limited (BOGL) is facing steps resistance in the market while marketing its superior quality Flint Buttons due to availability of sub-standard quality Flint Buttons of imported origin at a much cheaper price; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to restore the BOGL's Flint Buttons market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd. (BOGL) has reported that it is facing steep resistance in the market in respect of Flint buttons due to availability of some cheaper imported Flint buttons.

(b) Putting Flint buttons on the restricted list of imports is one of the measures suggested for protection of BOGL's flint buttons market.

लघु उद्योग

709. **श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी**: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार लघु उद्योग क्षेत्र में सांविधि ऋण और कार्यशील पूंजी की राशि को बढ़ाने का विचार रखती है;